



TRIBAL TRAIL

Hungarian journalist Boglarka Balogh (pictured) has come up with a unique way to raise awareness about soon-to-be-extinct tribes from across the world. In a series of photographs, she has morphed herself to look like a member of those tribes.

AROUND TOWN

DELHI



Inner Expressions

A GROUP art exhibition, showcasing the works of Dinesh Gaur, Gaurav Chawla and Kumud Grover, among others, will be held at Open Palm Court, India Habitat Centre. The exhibition offers each artist a medium to express their deepest thoughts. The exhibition is from January 4 to 8.



Desi Delight

BHAAV ARTS of Expression is holding a two-day Hindi theatre festival, called Rangaayan, at Akshara Theatre on January 3-4. Corporate comedy *Kaam ka Bamboo Mat Le Shambhu* (pictured), and *Atyachari Naari*, about a society where women dominate men, will be staged. For tickets, visit www.book-myshow.com and bhaavarts.com



Just For Laughs

THE BEST way to kickstart the new year is perhaps with a few laughs. Bangalore-based stand-up comedian Kanan Gill (pictured) will perform at Kamani Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, today at 7.30 pm. For tickets, visit www.explara.com

MUMBAI



Skyrabin Time

YAMINI TERESA Prabhu Barretto, a Spanish pianist born in India, will play Russian composer and pianist Skyrabin in the city. Barretto studied at the Gnessin Academy of Music in Moscow, and has performed all over Spain, introducing people to Skyrabin. The performance will be held on January 3, 7 pm at the National Centre for Performing Arts, Nariman Point.



Foodie Flock

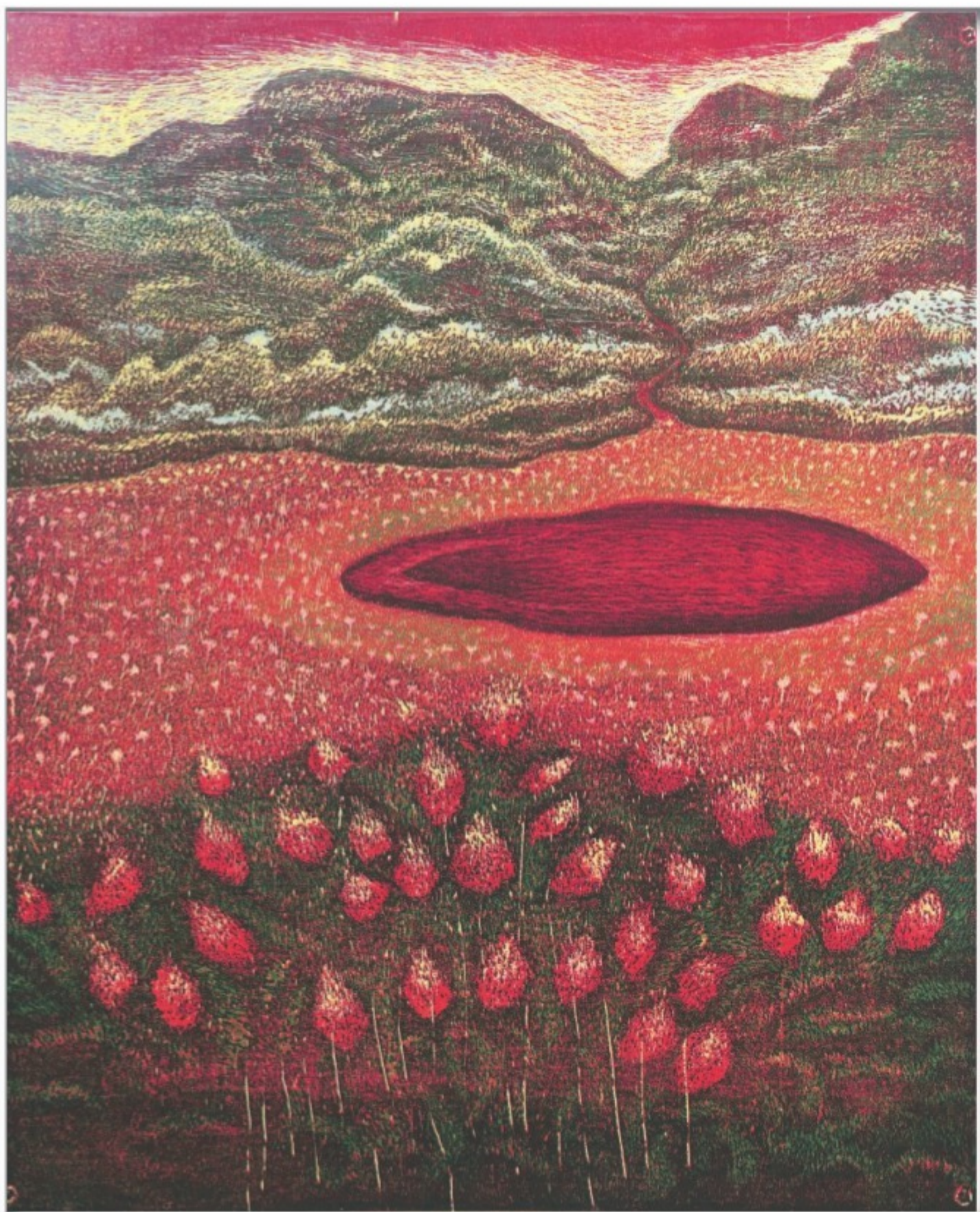
GET A healthy start to the new year by buying your fruits and vegetables at the farmers' market in Bandra, where you can also meet the farmers. Besides, visitors can enjoy live music, foot massages, and all-organic food, served at the cafe. It will be held every Sunday until March 31, from 10 am to 3 pm, at Windchimes Bhalla House, Bandra West.

African Rhythm

DANCER Kero Davila is stepping on to the stage to the rhythm of Varun Venkit's drums. She is hoping to bring West African dance to Mumbai through India's first-ever West African Dance workshop. Davila learned the art from a host of dancers in Guinea, Conakry. The workshop will be held on January 2-3, 11 am to 1 pm, at Arts in Motion, Sion.

The Red Earth

Vadodara-based artist Soghra Khurasani depicts the anger and resilience of women using motifs such as volcanoes and craters



POOJA PILLAI

IT LOOKS like a wound has been framed and mounted on the wall. The vividness and ferocity of its reds and oranges indicate a raw and violent anger of the type that rarely finds acknowledgement in real life, no matter that it simmers beneath the 'normalcy' we value so much. What it is, in fact, is a woodcut print on paper titled *And This Burning Land Belongs to You* created by Soghra Khurasani.

It is one among a series of prints that comprise her ongoing exhibition "Cratered Fiction", at Tarq in Mumbai. It is, says Khurasani, her way of expressing the anger and frustration that she feels as a witness to the violence and misogyny most women experience in South Asia.

"Cratered Fiction" is Khurasani's second solo show at Tarq. For her debut solo, "One Day It Will Come Out", the Vadodara-based artist had depicted erupting volcanoes, in a more overt expression of her anger. She says, "I used the volcanoes to express the voices of women and their anger

against the present misogynistic situation in our country and around the world. They represent how we suppress our anger within ourselves and how it can burst out in reaction to what's happening around us." The craters, she says, came naturally as a means to express what happens after these "eruptions" — the silent, peaceful protests that come after the first burst of anger and eventually bring about changes.

Yet, the feminist anger is palpable in each of the works. The bright shades of red that the 32-year-old artist has used in her works could stand in for a number of things — depending on the context, red is the colour of anger or celebration, fertility or destruction. In Khurasani's prints, red represents anger, of course, but there's more to it here, as indicated by her depiction of craters, and lava collected in pools or flowing in streams. Lava and volcanic ash, while destructive in the immediate sense, are essential in the long term as they bring a rich load of minerals from the earth's core to its crust. The slowly cooling lava, over the course of many millennia, is weathered into soil



Soghra Khurasani; (top) one of her works

that is typically very fertile. Khurasani's works, thus, equate this volcanic, cratered landscape with femininity. It is not a passive femininity; the surface may seem flat, placid and governable, but it is capable of mighty eruptions of destructive lava.

This feminine landscape cannot escape the effects of a masculine society. In the print titled *Beyond My Skin and Your Soil*, a field is cut into the fertile landscape and made ready for agricul-

tural production, much like how women are raised and groomed for reproduction. The title, *Even the Sun Hides When it Flows*, seems like a comment on the illogical taboo associated with the menstrual cycle, while in *Skin Beneath*, scratches mar an otherwise-lovely landscape, revealing the reality of casual violence in the lives of women.

Khurasani addresses violence more directly in a set of 12 plates — the latest works in the exhibition — which show landscapes that have been grooved and furrowed and drilled. But there's no anger in them, just a twilight stillness that, Khurasani says, lies between violence and healing. "These works depict the journey of a woman and her body, the wounds that she allows to be inflicted on her body and how they heal — the incisions made when she is preparing to deliver a child, the scars left by a cesarean surgery, or even the scars left by breast cancer surgery." In her own way, Khurasani is celebrating the resilience of the feminine.

"Cratered Fictions" is on view at Tarq, Colaba, Mumbai, till January 15

Voicing Concerns

At a day-long exhibition in Delhi, artists offered creative responses to 'the climate of suffocation'

PALLAVI CHATTOPADHYAY

A COLLAGE created by the late Hema Upadhyay, where the artist pasted tapes on photographs of her mouth and eyes, rests in one of the halls of the Constitution Club in the Capital. Crafted a week before her gruesome death, it expresses the threat to an artist's creative freedom, much like the remaining 45 posters, created by other prominent artists from Delhi and Mumbai.

Another poster by Ali Akbar Mehta shows a golden-hued human figure, being taken over by black, clown-like demons. Part of the day-long exhibition in Delhi, titled "Avaaz Do!", these works rested beside enlarged newspaper clips representing "attacks on the freedom of expression and culture", including those on Sudheendra Kulkarni, whose face was allegedly blackened by Shiv Sainiks in Mumbai, and also actor Shah Rukh Khan's remarks about intolerance.

In the wake of the killings of writers, rationalists, members of the minority community and Dalits, and with many writers

returning their national awards in protests, which made headlines in the recent past, organisers say "Avaaz Do!" was set up as a platform for artists to express their feelings using their creative side. It witnessed the participation of more than 40 artists — including Anju Dodiya, Jitish Kallat, Veer Munshi, Arpana Caur, Vivan Sundaram and Pushpamala N. The exhibition was part of the 27th memorial to theatre personality Safdar Hashmi, who was killed during a performance of his play *Halla Bol* on January 1, 1989, in Delhi's Sahibabad area. Ram Rahman, co-founder of Sahmat, said, "These works are a way of artists expressing resistance against any kind of narrow ideology."

Veer Munshi has drawn the enlarged figure of a screaming man in one of his works, appearing as if the protagonist is fed up with his environment. The outlined wings of a bird lie trapped under the clutches of the border of a grill gate in Smeddh Rajendran's installation *Foot on Vertigo*.

"My work talks about transcending borders, that keep appearing and disappearing time and again. More than geographical borders, there are social borders that have been



Works by artists Veer Munshi and (above) Hema Upadhyay



created in society that oppresses certain expression," says Rajendran, adding, "We can feel the intolerance in everyday life. The timing of this exhibition is apt because everyone is feeling the kind of suffocation."

Our Kind of Place

A new place in Noida might just be the answer to the city's culinary woes



Interiors of Our Story

SHANTANU DAVID

DENIZENS OF Noida frequently pray (OK, that just might be us) for a casual restaurant offering both sustenance and substance, in the city. Our Story in the sector 18 market makes that fairytale come true. Split over two levels, the lower serving as a tea room complete with cupcakes and company, and the upper, a sit-down restaurant, Our Story also offers a veritable kindergarten of games, from chess to Life (the board game), swings in the outdoor area, and an indulgent, smiling staff. We happily regress.



FOOD REVIEW

We start off with the Meat Lover's Salad, an anachronism that appeals to us like a fly does to a spider. Served in a wooden bowl, it is an amalgamation of sliced sausages, chicken breast, peppered salami, pepperoni and bacon, bound together by a quasi chipotle mayonnaise, a scrunching of raw red and yellow bell peppers and doctored with pepper. Yes, it is exactly as good as it sounds. Given how meaty our salad is (no pun intended) we spring, or rather waddle, straight into the mains.

We decide to revisit the high-school sweetheart of Penne With Chicken in White Sauce and indulge in a flirtation with the Mutton Khichda. The heat of the moment, or rather the chill of the

evening, also nudges us towards a Hot Chocolate.

The khichda is definitely the masculine of the khichdi, a restrained kedgeree rendered robust and brawny with large pieces of toothsome melting mutton, and with sides of chopped onions, tomatoes and chillies, and liquid gold, er, ghee, which we pour on with abandon. Despite the clearly high-caloric value of the meal (we can literally feel our weight increasing with every indulgent spoonful), we polish it off, left both utterly satiated and correspondingly sad as we contemplate our next time on the weighing scale.

The pasta, unfortunately, is anemic in comparison, requiring more cheese, better and less chewy chicken and generally a coating of flavour. Luckily, we have our hot chocolate to seek solace in — piping hot, not too sweet, but as chocolatey as a cocoa plantation. Slurp and sink back, while you wait for your partner to come up with a new word on the Scrabble board. We'll check out the tea room on our next visit. A few teething troubles aside, Our Story is a much need oasis in the Continentally-parched city.

MEAL FOR TWO: Rs 1,500 (including taxes, excluding alcohol) ADDRESS: G-38, 1st Floor, Sector 18, Noida. CONTACT: 9599786807

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THE ONLY LAW THAT MATTERS IS GRAVITY

POINT BREAK

SEE IT IN 3D & 4DX

IN CINEMAS NOW

ALSO IN HINDI, TAMIL & TELUGU

IN 4DX AT: CINEPOLIS VIVIANA MALL Thane, 12:25, 5:40, 8:05 p.m.

IN 3D ENGLISH AT FOLLOWING CINEMAS

PVR PHOENIX MALLS Lower Parel, 9:50 a.m., 12:30, 3:05, 5:40, 8:15, 10:55 p.m. | PVR DYNAMIX MALL Juhu, 9:50 a.m., 12:30, 3:05, 5:40, 8:15, 10:55 p.m. | PVR ICON INFINITI MALL Andheri, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., 2:35, 4:40, 7:40, 10:15 p.m. | PVR CITI MALL Andheri, 10:30 a.m., 3:40, 6:15, 8:50, 11:25 p.m. | PVR OBEROI MALL Goregaon, 9:30 a.m., 12:30, 3:05, 5:40, 8:15, 10:55 p.m. | PVR Sion, 9:00 a.m., 2:40, 11:10 p.m. | PVR PHOENIX MARKETCITY Kuria, 10:00 a.m., 1:05, 3:05, 5:40, 8:15, 9:45, 10:55 p.m. | PVR Mulund, 9:45 a.m., 3:05, 5:40, 8:15, 10:55 p.m. | CINEPLEX GROVELAND Kandivli, 9:00 a.m., 12:30, 3:05, 5:40, 8:15, 10:55 p.m. | CINEPLEX Mira Road, 10:45 a.m., 10:40 p.m. | CINEPLEX Ghatkopar, 10:30 a.m., 10:30 p.m. | INOX Nariman Point, 9:00, 11:35 a.m., 3:25, 8:35, 11:00 p.m. | METRO BIG CINEMAS Marine Lines, 9:00, 10:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:30, 7:45, 10:15, 11:15 p.m. | STERLING CST, 2:30, 7:55 p.m. | MOVIECITY SUBURBIA Bandra, 10:30 p.m. | SANGAM BIG CINEMAS Andheri, 9:45 a.m., 3:00, 5:30, 11:10 p.m. | CINEPOLIS Andheri, 12:00, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 p.m. | MOVIECITY HUB Goregaon, 9:00, 11:15 a.m., 1:30, 3:45, 8:45, 10:55 p.m. | CARNIVAL CINEMAS Oshiwara, 9:00 a.m., 5:30, 10:45 p.m. | INOX INORBIT MALL Malad, 9:15 a.m., 12:35, 3:55, 6:25, 11:15 p.m. | INOX Kandivli, 9:00 a.m., 2:15, 5:25, 10:50 p.m. | CARNIVAL CINEMAS Borivli, 9:45 a.m., 12:15, 10:45 p.m. | MAXUS Borivli, 10:30 a.m., 1:15, 6:00, 8:15 p.m. | MAXUS Bhayandar, 7:30 p.m. | CARNIVAL CINEMAS Vasai, 5:15 p.m. | K-MOVIESTAR Vasai, 10:30 a.m., 4:30, 10:30 p.m. | MIRAJ DATTANI DIGIPLEX Vasai, 10:30 a.m., 4:30, 10:30 p.m. | IMAX BIG CINEMAS Wadala, 9:45 a.m., 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:15 p.m. | CINEPLEX Chembur, 12:35, 3:05, 6:45, 11:10 p.m. | INOX R-CITY MALL Ghatkopar, 9:00 a.m., 1:50, 6:40, 11:15 p.m. | HUMA BIG CINEMAS Kanjurmarg, 2:45, 11:00 p.m. | BIG CINEMAS Mulund, 9:15, 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 11:00 p.m. | CARNIVAL CINEMAS Bhandup, 9:45 a.m., 3:00, 10:30 p.m. | CINEPLEX ETERNITY MALL Thane, 10:45 a.m., 7:15 p.m. | CINEPLEX WONDERMALL Thane, 1:50, 10:30 p.m. | CINEMA STAR Thane, 7:50, 11:40 p.m. | CINEPOLIS VIVIANA MALL Thane, 10:15 a.m., 3:25, 10:45 p.m. | IN VIP SCREEN -> 4:00, 11:00 p.m. | INOX KORUM MALL Thane, 9:00 a.m., 2:15, 5:25, 10:50 p.m. | INOX Kalyan, 8:35 p.m. | SMS SARVODAYA MALL Kalyan, 5:30 p.m. | INOX RAGHULEELA Vashi, 9:00 a.m., 12:00, 2:15, 6:30, 11:00 p.m. | BIG CINEMAS Kharghar, 3:00, 11:00 p.m. | INOX GLOMAX MALL Kharghar, 9:00 a.m., 12:10, 5:25, 10:50 p.m. | IN 2D ENGLISH -> REGAL Colaba, 1:15 p.m. | STERLING CST, 10:00 a.m. | CHANDAN Juhu, 12:30, 6:30 p.m. | INOX R-CITY MALL Ghatkopar, 8:45 p.m. | CINEPOLIS VIVIANA MALL Thane, 1:30 p.m. | BALAJI MOVIEPLEX Koperkhairane, 9:15, 11:45 a.m., 5:45, 11:15 p.m. |

IN 2D HINDI AT FOLLOWING CINEMAS

PVR Sion, 8:35 p.m. | CINEPLEX Mira Road, 4:40 p.m. | CINEPLEX Ghatkopar, 4:25 p.m. | CINEPLEX ETERNITY MALL Thane, 4:40, 9:50 p.m. | CINEPLEX WONDERMALL Thane, 11:15 a.m., 7:45 p.m. | MOVIESTAR BIG CINEMAS Goregaon, 10:00 a.m., 12:15, 2:45, 8:15, 10:45 p.m. | CARNIVAL CINEMAS Borivli, 5:30 p.m. | INOX THAKUR MALL Dahisar, 9:00 a.m., 2:15, 5:25, 10:50 p.m. | HUMA BIG CINEMAS Kanjurmarg, 9:30 a.m., 8:15 p.m. | BHAYANDAR, 12:45, 5:15, 9:45 p.m. | CARNIVAL CINEMAS Vasai, 9:15 a.m., 12:00, 10:45 p.m. | K-MOVIESTAR Vasai, 1:30, 7:30 p.m. | MIRAJ FUN FIESTA Nalasopara, 10:30 a.m., 4:45, 10:45 p.m. | MAXUS Andheri-E, 11:00 a.m., 2:00, 8:30, 11:00 p.m. | INOX Ghatkopar, 9:00 a.m., 2:15, 5:25, 10:50 p.m. | INOX THAKUR MALL Dahisar, 9:30 a.m., 8:15 p.m. | CARNIVAL CINEMAS Bhandup, 8:00 p.m. | CINEMA STAR Thane, 9:15 a.m., 2:05, 10:15 p.m. | POOJA Dombivli, 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 7:30 p.m. | INOX Kalyan, 9:45 a.m., 3:00, 10:50 p.m. | SMS SARVODAYA MALL Kalyan, 9:45 a.m., 12:00, 10:45 p.m. | ASHOK-ANIL MULTIPLEX Ulhasnagar, 9:15 a.m., 12:45, 3:20, 8:15, 10:20 p.m. | BIG CINEMAS Ulhasnagar, 10:30 a.m., 1:45, 7:30, 10:45 p.m. | STAR BIG CINEMAS Ambernath, 9:40, 11:55 a.m., 5:15, 10:30 p.m. | BIG CINEMAS Kharghar, 9:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m. | IN 2D HINDI -> GEMINI Bandra, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 p.m. | BHARAT CINEPLEX Kuria, 12:15, 11:00 p.m. | 24 KARAT Jogeshwari, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15, 10:45 p.m. |

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